THE GOOD POINTS OF A BAD WOMAN.

Jn.4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water.
Jn4:28,29. The woman then left her water pot and went her way into the city and said to the men, Come see a man who told me all things that ever I did; can this be the Christ?

Every sermon I ever heard or read dealing with the Woman of Samaria with whom Jesus dealt at Jacob's well, always painted her as a bad woman, to be classed with the underworld as a harlot. And I have always been led to conclude that because of her immorality, her utter badness, Jesus desired the more earnestly to save her.

It is true that Christ came to save the lost, to save sinners, but I do not believe that Jesus came to save a sinner because of his sins, but rather in spite of his sins. God so loved the world-His children of earth- that he gave. It is because we are the children of God that Christ wishes to save us; because we are of such worth to our Father in Heaven.

"There is so much good in the worst of us
And so much bad in the best of us
That it does'nt behoove any of us
To say much about the rest of us".

I do not believe that Jesus spoke to this woman of Samaria just because she was a bad woman. He did not speak thus to every bad person he met. Jesus passed hundreds of unsaved and evil-minded persons without saying anything. Not that he was not concerned, for the burden of the Master's heart was the unsaved condition of those whom he loved. But that perhaps they were not ready to listen to him, they could not, as yet, appreciate a Savior.

But Jesus did speak to this woman at Jacob's well, because, I believe, he was attracted to her and sensed her inner attitude and condition. Jesus saw that he could possibly help her, largely because she was ready to be helped. Whether you agree with me or not, at least a careful study of this woman's traits as revealed to us in this wonderful 4th chapter of St. John will do us all good, I am sure.

1. We first note that this woman was observing.
When Jesus asked her for a drink, she replied, "How is it that thou, being a Jew, ask drink of me who am a Samaritan woman?" This woman had noted that Jesus was a Jew, and when he asked her for a drink, she immediately began to

study and analyze his Jewish mind. Not being able to understand his request, knowing how prejudiced the Jews were against the Samaritans, she asks Jesus a question to find out.

We now see that this woman of Samaria not only observed closely, but thotfully and inquiringly.

A thotful and inquiring observation leads to knowledge. Thus we note further that this woman of Samaria was not only acquainted with the the religion and beliefs of her own people but of the Jews as well.

But you say that such knowledge was common among the ~~X/XXX~~ common people. That is true. There are many wrong-doers today who know a great deal about religion and the religions of the world. They have quite a fund of knowledge about religion, but their knowledge dôes'nt lead them out of their evil ways. Evin a thotless person can accumulate a vast fund of knowledge and information. We have students who go thru our univeristies and graduate with creditable honors who do so without giving much thot to it. There are persons of marked ability who go thru life thotlessly.

What leads me to conclude that this woman of Samaria did some personal thinking for herself is her final answer to Jesus when she could not quite grasp what he had said about God being Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Her answer was, "I know that Messiah cometh; when he is come, he will declare unto us all things." In this answer is revealed a personal belief and longing that comes to one only as the result of personal thot and reflection. Her soul longed for the fuller life in God. This slave woman who lived in sin was hungering and thirsting after God.

W. We notice further that this woman was thotful not just for herself, but for others as well.

When Jesus told her that He was the Christ, what did she do? The woman then left her water-pot and went her way into the city and said to her neighbors, Come, see a man who told me all things that ever I did; Can this be the Christ?"

This woman of Samaria could'nt be happy unless she shared her happiness with others.

And from that city many of the Samaritans believed on Jesus because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all things that ever I did."

So sincere and earnest was she, and so triumphant in her finding the Messiah, who had become to her a personal

I reach the conclusion that there was a great deal of goodness in this bad woman and that if we all emulated her good traits we would all become ardent personal workers for the cause of Christ and our churches would soon become filled with true worshippers, out towns and cities would soon be cleaned up and humanity would soon be lifted up unto a higher standard of living.

Can keep in mind this picture of Jesus at the well - awakening within this woman of Samaria the true spiritual self & causing her to give her best to God & man.

Do you, in your personal influence, awaken others to their noblest selves? Do you lead them closer to God & Christ? Can you help others to a better life when opportunity affords, or do you shun them because they are outcasts?